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SEPTEMBER 29.

Mr. J. H. REDFIELD in the chair.

Twenty-five persons present.

OCTOBER 5.

Mr. GEO. W. TRYON, JR., in the chair.

Twenty-four persons present.

A paper entitled "Attack and Defence as Agents in Animal Evolution," by Charles Morris, was presented for publication.

OCTOBER 13.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Thirty-four persons present.

Notes on Cactaceæ.—Elastic Fruit in Mamillaria.—At the meeting of the Botanical Section of the Academy, held on the 12th inst., Mr. MEEHAN referred to his former observations on the sudden growth of the fruit of some species of cactaceæ, indicating that it was not a growth before maturity, but an elastic projection of a fruit already mature. Since that time he had been able to note in *Mamillaria gladiata*, *M. recurva*, and some other Mexican species, in which there was only the apex of the red fruit visible between the mamma over night, a full elongation to the length of an inch by 9 A. M. the next day. They were clear cases of the elongation of the fruit after maturity and not a growth.

The flowers of *Opuntia Rafinesqui* had very irritable stamens when the flowers were fully expanded under a bright sun. Some echinocacti had stamens irritable in a less degree, but in *Echinocactus erinaceus* the stamens were quite as irritable as in the *Opuntia* noted.

On the Flora of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.—At the same meeting of the Botanical Section Mr. REDFIELD spoke of the topographical features of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, in connection with the flora of those islands. The northern portion of the island of Martha's Vineyard rises into rounded hills of considerable elevation, composed of gravelly drift, strewn occasionally with large boulders. They are evidently